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E-Prescribing in Arizona

Opportunities to expand use of e-prescribing in Arizona

According to data provided by Surescripts, as of June 2017, only 57.7 percent of Arizona prescribers are sending prescriptions electronically (e-prescribing). That is an 8.7 percent gap from the national average of 66.4 percent of providers using e-prescribing. Additionally, currently 8.5 percent of Arizona's provider are signed up for the e-prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) as compared to the national rate of 17.1 percent.

This represents an opportunity for Arizona providers to increase the use of e-prescribing and EPCS in their practices. How do we do this? One solution is to provide information to providers regarding e-prescribing and EPCS including best practices, answers to frequently asked questions, and tips on educating their patients. Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has contracted with Health Current (formerly Arizona Health-e Connection) to provide e-prescribing education and support to AHCCCS providers. Health Current strives to support providers in using electronic health record (EHR) technology in a meaningful way. According to the latest ASU Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR) report, over 90 percent of Arizona physicians are using EHRs. Typically, e-prescribing software/functionality is built into certified EHRs.

There are many reasons to e-prescribe including:

- Utilizing one workflow for all prescriptions - controlled and non-controlled substances
- Taking advantage of tools built into EHRs that can assist with alerting to drug-to-drug interactions, allergies, therapeutic duplications, and contraindications
- Reducing of potential forgery of paper prescriptions and abuse of controlled substances
- Eliminating phone calls and inaccuracy due to illegible hand-written prescriptions
- Meeting Meaningful Use requirements
- Potentially receiving a higher reimbursement rate under AHCCCS' Value Based Purchasing program
- 98.5 percent of Arizona's pharmacies accept e-prescriptions and 94.5 percent are EPCS-enabled

Available Resources

For technical assistance with EHRs regarding e-prescribing and/or EPCS, providers should contact their EHR vendor.

Health Current can help providers with e-prescribing by providing education, answering questions and assisting with barriers encountered. Email erx@healthcurrent.org or call (602) 449-7873. Additional resources and reference information are also available at www.healthcurrent.org/information-center/e-prescribing/